July 22, 2008

Ms. Lisa A. Joyal
Endangered Species Environmental Review Coordinator
Natural Heritage and Nongame Research Program
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
500 Lafayette Road
Box 25
St. Paul, MN 55155

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR LIST OF STATE-PROTECTED SPECIES AND IMPORTANT HABITATS WITHIN THE AREA UNDER EVALUATION FOR THE PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2, LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION REVIEW

Dear Ms. Joyal:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or the staff) is reviewing an application submitted by Nuclear Management Company, LLC (NMC), for the renewal of the operating licenses for the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2 (PINGP). PINGP is located near Red Wing, Minnesota, approximately 39 miles southeast of Minneapolis. As part of the review of the license renewal application (LRA), the NRC is preparing a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) to its "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants," NUREG-1437, under the provisions of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 51 (10 CFR Part 51), the NRC's regulation that implements the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969. The SEIS includes an analysis of pertinent environmental issues, impacts to endangered or threatened species and other fish and wildlife.

NMC is requesting renewal of its operating licenses for PINGP for a period of 20 years beyond the expiration of the current license terms of August 9, 2013, and October 29, 2014, respectively. This proposed action would include the use and continued maintenance of existing plant facilities and transmission lines. For the purpose of license renewal, NMC plans to replace the PINGP steam generators. As part of these refurbishment activities, NMC also plans to establish a temporary construction area approximately 100 yards northwest of the turbine building and to build permanent warehouses within existing plant boundaries. NMC states there will be no clearing of previously-undisturbed areas.

The PINGP site encompasses approximately 578 acres, and is located on the western shore of Sturgeon Lake. Prairie Island, upon which PINGP is located, is a low island terrace in the Mississippi River; please see the attached site boundary map (Enclosure 1). The Prairie Island Indian Reservation is directly north of the site.

One 161-kilovolt (kV) and four 345-kV transmission lines connect Prairie Island to the regional transmission system; please see the attached Prairie Island transmission system map (Enclosure 2). To support the SEIS preparation process and to ensure compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, the NRC requests information on state-listed, proposed, and candidate species and critical habitat that may be in the vicinity of PINGP and its associated

transmission line corridors. In addition, please provide any information you consider appropriate under the provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act.

The NRC staff plans to hold two public NEPA scoping meetings on July 30, 2008. The first session will be held in the afternoon and an identical session will be held later that evening. The first meeting will convene at 1:30 p.m. and will continue until 4:30 p.m., as necessary. The second meeting will convene at 7:00 p.m. and will continue until 10:00 p.m., as necessary. Both sessions will be held at the Red Wing Public Library, 225 East Avenue, Red Wing, MN 55066. In addition, during the week of August 18, 2008, the NRC plans to conduct a site audit. You and your staff are invited to attend both the public meetings and the site audit. Your office will receive a copy of the draft SEIS along with a request for comments. The anticipated publication date for the draft SEIS is March 2009.

If you have any questions concerning the NRC staff's review of this license renewal application, please contact Mr. J.P. Leous, License Renewal Project Manager, at 301-415-2864 or by e-mail at Justin.Leous@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA by AStuyvenberg for/

Rani Franovich, Branch Chief
Projects Branch 2
Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-282 & 50-306

Enclosures:
As stated

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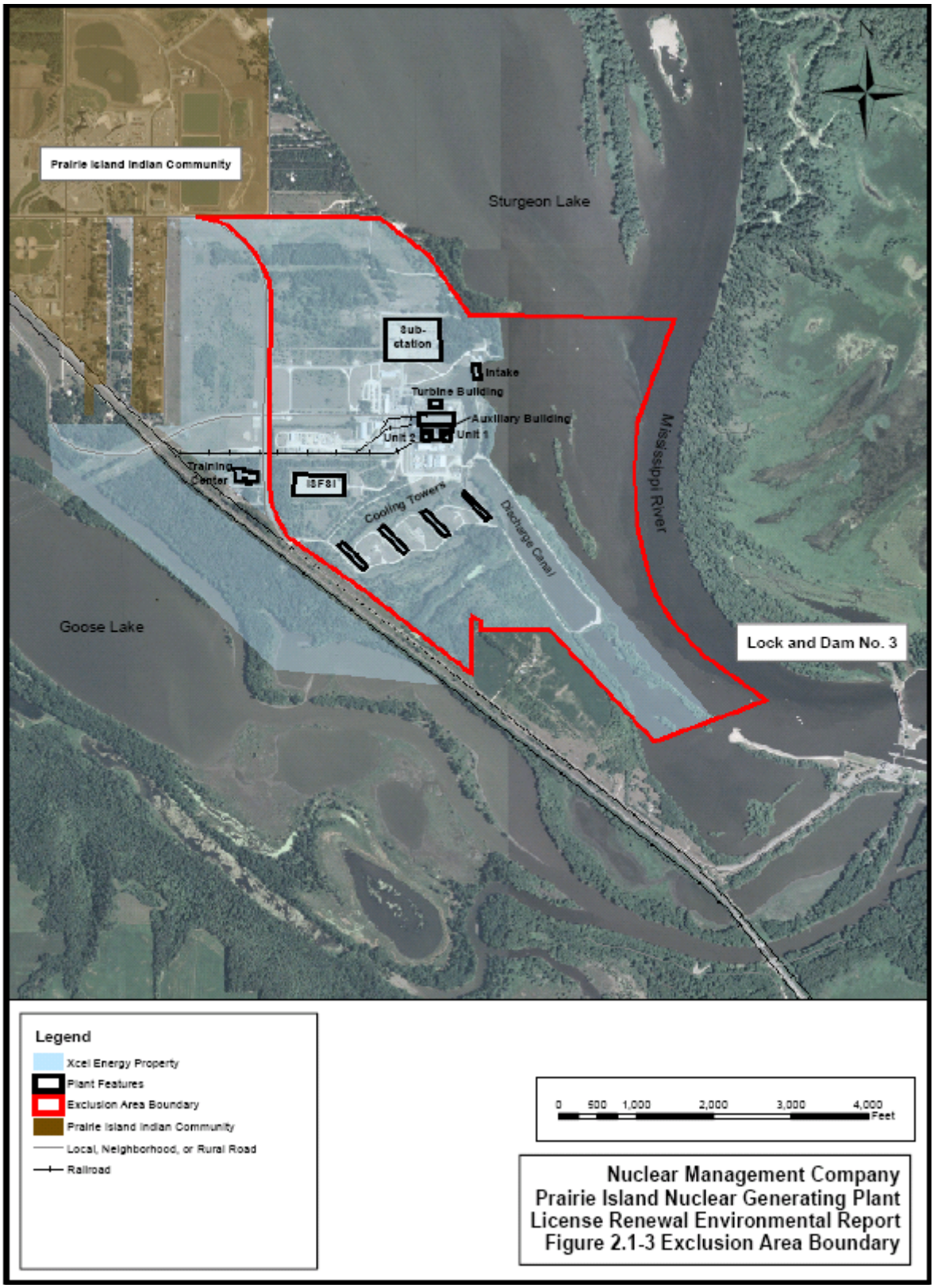
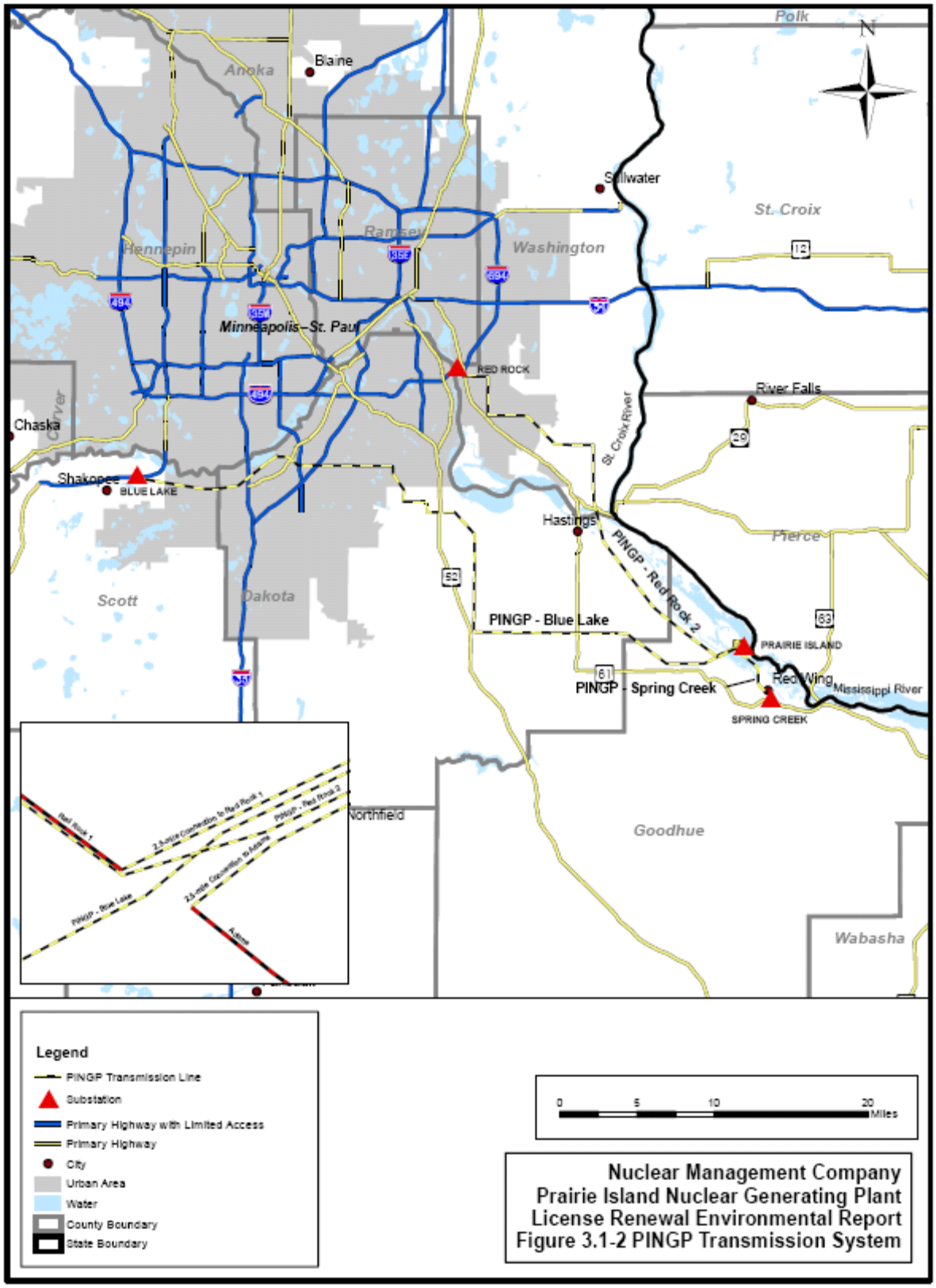


Nuclear Management Company
Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant
License Renewal Environmental Report
Figure 2.1-3 Exclusion Area Boundary

ENCLOSURE 1



Nuclear Management Company
Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant
License Renewal Environmental Report
Figure 3.1-2 PINGP Transmission System

ENCLOSURE 2

Letter to L. Joyal from R. Franovich, July 22, 2008

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